



Transportation

Transportation of Explosives

COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY

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Supercedes: USFJ Instruction 24-2, 20 October 1997 Pages: 3
Distribution: A

PURPOSE: To provide guidance relating to the movement of explosives over highways in Japan. This instruction ensures US Forces are in compliance with Japanese laws and the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA).

SUMMARY OF CHANGES: Updated to new format. Changes explosive weight load restriction from 80% to 100%.

1. **Scope.** Applicable to all service component commands of United States Forces, Japan.

2. **General.** Outlines the procedures pertaining to the movement of explosives over highways in Japan.

3. **Procedures:** These procedures are to ensure safety in hauling explosives over highways in Japan and are applicable to U.S. forces in Japan:

3.1. Markings of Vehicles:

3.1.1. Vehicles carrying explosives on public highways will display, on the forward and rear parts of the vehicle, prominent hazard signs measuring not less than 50 centimeters (19.5 inches) in length and 35 centimeters (13.6 inches) in height, with circled Japanese symbol for "explosives" in white on a red background. Luminous or fluorescent paint will be used for these signs. The abbreviated symbol for the Japanese word "kayaku" will be used.

3.1.2. In any instance of hauling explosives on the public highways at night, a red light or lights will be displayed, plainly visible to the front and rear for a distance of 150 meters.

3.2. Loading and Transportation Methods:

3.2.1. Methods of Loading:

3.2.1.1. Explosives will be packed firmly and loads securely fastened on the vehicle in such a way as to prevent the loads from sliding, falling or dropping.

3.2.1.2. Exposed explosives will be covered with flame resistant coverings. "Exposed" explosives are explosives that are actually visible (such as unpacked bulk explosives, or disassembled or open components) and susceptible to ignition directly by static or mechanical sparks or create (or accidentally create) explosive dust or give off vapors, fumes, or gases in explosive concentration.

3.2.1.3. The weight of loads (including that of packing) cannot be in excess of 100% of the maximum loading capacity of the carrying vehicles. Whenever service regulations prescribe more stringent conditions, the shipping service's regulation will apply.

3.2.2. Prohibition of Mixed Loading:

3.2.2.1. Explosives must not be loaded together with the following items:

3.2.2.1.1. Ignitable or inflammable cargo.

3.2.2.1.2. Cargo which could appreciably increase the damage potential if present during an accidental detonation, such as poison and/or radioactive substances.

3.2.2.2. Fuses and primers will not be loaded together with low or high explosives, bombs, torpedoes, projectiles or rockets, except those munitions/missiles that have a fuse designed to be shipped as an integral part of the munitions/missiles.

3.2.2.3. When a mixed load consists of cargo not prohibited by 3.2.2.1 or 3.2.2.2 above, the total weight of the load will not be in excess of 100% of the maximum loading capacity of the carrying vehicles.

3.2.3. Regulations on Transportation:

3.2.3.1. In the transportation of explosives by vehicles, the following regulations will be observed:

3.2.3.1.1. Drivers will take a 15 minute rest every 200 KMs or less.

3.2.3.1.2. An observer or assistant driver will be assigned to each vehicle carrying explosives.

3.2.3.1.3. When parking, inappropriate places will be avoided and observers posted.

3.2.3.1.4. In the case of parking on highways at night or in times of poor visibility, red lights will be placed 15 meters in front of and 15 meters to the rear of the vehicle.

3.2.3.1.5. Except when passing another vehicle, explosive carrying vehicles must maintain a following distance of at least 80 meters. Explosives vehicles will not be parked within 50 meters of any other explosives vehicles.

3.2.3.1.6. When explosives are in transit and required to be unloaded for transfer, a watchman will be posted for guarding the load. Should a transfer delay occur, the explosives will be stored in a suitable powder magazine or equivalent equipped storage facility.

3.3. When explosives in excess of 900 kilograms (2,000 pounds net weight of explosives) are to be carried by vehicle on the public highways advance notice of the shipment must be given to the concerned prefectural police headquarters. In the case of movements that occur at frequent intervals and continue for lengthy periods, one notice covering the period involved will be sufficient.

3.3.1. Commercial contractors transporting explosives for U.S. Forces under contract must follow all procedures required by Japanese law. When cargo movement is contracted to a Japanese transport company, due caution must be given to contractor personnel by informing the contractor of the nature and shape of explosives.

3.3.2. In the selection of an appropriate transportation route, the transiting of busy city areas will be avoided whenever possible. Frequent coordination will be accomplished with the concerned prefectural police headquarters as to the routes to be used in transporting explosives.

3.3.3. Experienced and responsible drivers will be assigned to drive the vehicles loaded with explosives.

3.4. Whenever ammunition or explosives are disposed of, the following apply: If by burning or detonation on land, the disposal will be at times, places, and under circumstances authorized by the U.S.-Japan Joint Committee. Under no circumstances will U.S. Forces Japan service components dispose of explosives by dumping them into the ocean.

3.5. If at any time the laws or regulations are changed, appropriate changes will be made to these procedures as mutually agreed and approved in the U.S.-Japan Joint Committee.

4. **References.**

4.1. Paragraph 6, Minutes of the 442nd Joint Committee Meeting, 28 August 1990.

4.2. Paragraph 6o, Minutes of the 882nd Joint Committee Meeting, 3 April 2003.

4.3. Paragraph 3b, Minutes of the 883rd Joint Committee Meeting, 15 May 2003.

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